

Bishop Hubbard Reflects on Bishop Clark

'A Strong Leader Who Listens'

I have known Matt Clark since our high school days. Although we attended different schools, he Catholic Central, and I LaSalle Institute, we often saw each other at school events such as basketball and football games and the like. The great dividing line between Matt's approach to athletics and my own was the bench. He spent most of his time running by our bench. I spent most of my time sitting on it.

Our friendship grew and deepened as we both attended North American College in Rome. It was then that I received the insight into the many qualities which make him the open, compassionate and truly Christian person that he is. There was never a time when someone, student or faculty, approached Matt for assistance or just for conversation that they did not find him receptive and willing to help. For me,

personally, he was always a source of support and encouragement. Add to all of this a lively sense of humor and you have a great combination. Matt can see humor in situations which appear most gloomy. He is also blessed with an ability to laugh at himself, and frequently will tell stories about his own past antics which evoke as much laughter from him as from those listening.

As a priest, Matt held many important and sensitive positions in the Albany Diocese, none more so than that of first chairman of the Priests' Personnel Board. It is in this capacity that his great love for the priesthood and the priests' ministry evidenced itself. Far from being concerned with placement, important as that is, Matt was very sensitive to the person of the priest. To his need for healing, growth and development. He was truly a "minister for the ministers."

One final thought: Matt has always been able to put things in perspective. For him, the deeper, more spiritual questions are those of importance. For if he can bring people to reflect on their Christianity, then many of the issues that he can deal with in perspective.

He is a strong leader who listens, evaluates and then embarks on a firm course of action. He will see his directions through, always respecting those who see things differently.

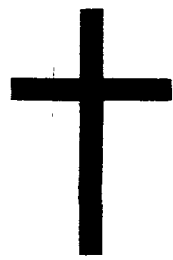
I am overjoyed for the Church of Rochester. My prayer is that his ministry there confirms in him all of those gifts which a loving God has given him.

May the journey and travels with God's people in Rochester be a great witness to the Lord's Good News.

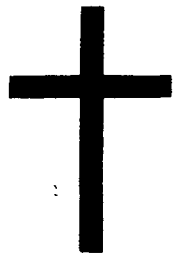


Photo by Anthony J. Costello

Howard Hubbard told a recent press conference in Albany that he used to warm the bench that Matt Clark ran by, back in Troy high school days. Then neither of the high school friends ever dreamed that someday they would be Bishop Hubbard of Albany and Bishop Clark of Rochester. Bishop Hubbard is the youngest American bishop and Bishop Clark the second youngest.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO**



**Bishop Matthew H. Clark
Class of 1955**

from

The Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni

of

**Catholic Central High School
Troy, New York**

"MAY OUR LADY OF CATHOLIC HIGH WATCH OVER YOU"